



**Director of
Central
Intelligence**

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OCPAS/CTG

CY# 285

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National Intelligence Daily

*Wednesday
28 March 1984*

~~**Top Secret**~~

CPAS NID 84-073JX

28 March 1984

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IRAQ-IRAN: Iraqi Attack on Oil Tanker

Iraqi Super Etendard aircraft reportedly attacked two ships southwest of Khark Island yesterday. Fighting remains at a low level northeast of Al Basrah as both sides reinforce their positions.

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A Greek oil tanker was hit during the attack yesterday near Khark Island. The attack occurred in the area where Iraqi helicopters and a missile boat had attacked several ships on Saturday. Iraq also claims its aircraft hit an oil pumping station near Khorramabad yesterday.

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Comment: Spot oil prices probably will increase as a result of the attack. This is the first confirmed attack on an oil tanker, and charter and insurance rates for shipments to Khark Island also are likely to go up. The station probably services a domestic refinery and was not connected to export facilities.

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Other Military Activity

A new Iranian HAWK missile site northeast of the Majnoon Islands is operational.

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a third HAWK site near the pontoon bridge remained unoccupied.

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they are building three causeways from the western edge of the marsh toward the islands.

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Comment: The activation of the new HAWK site will threaten Iraqi air operations over the marsh. Iran may be able to make the other HAWK sites northeast of Al Basrah operational soon by transferring missile launchers from other fronts.

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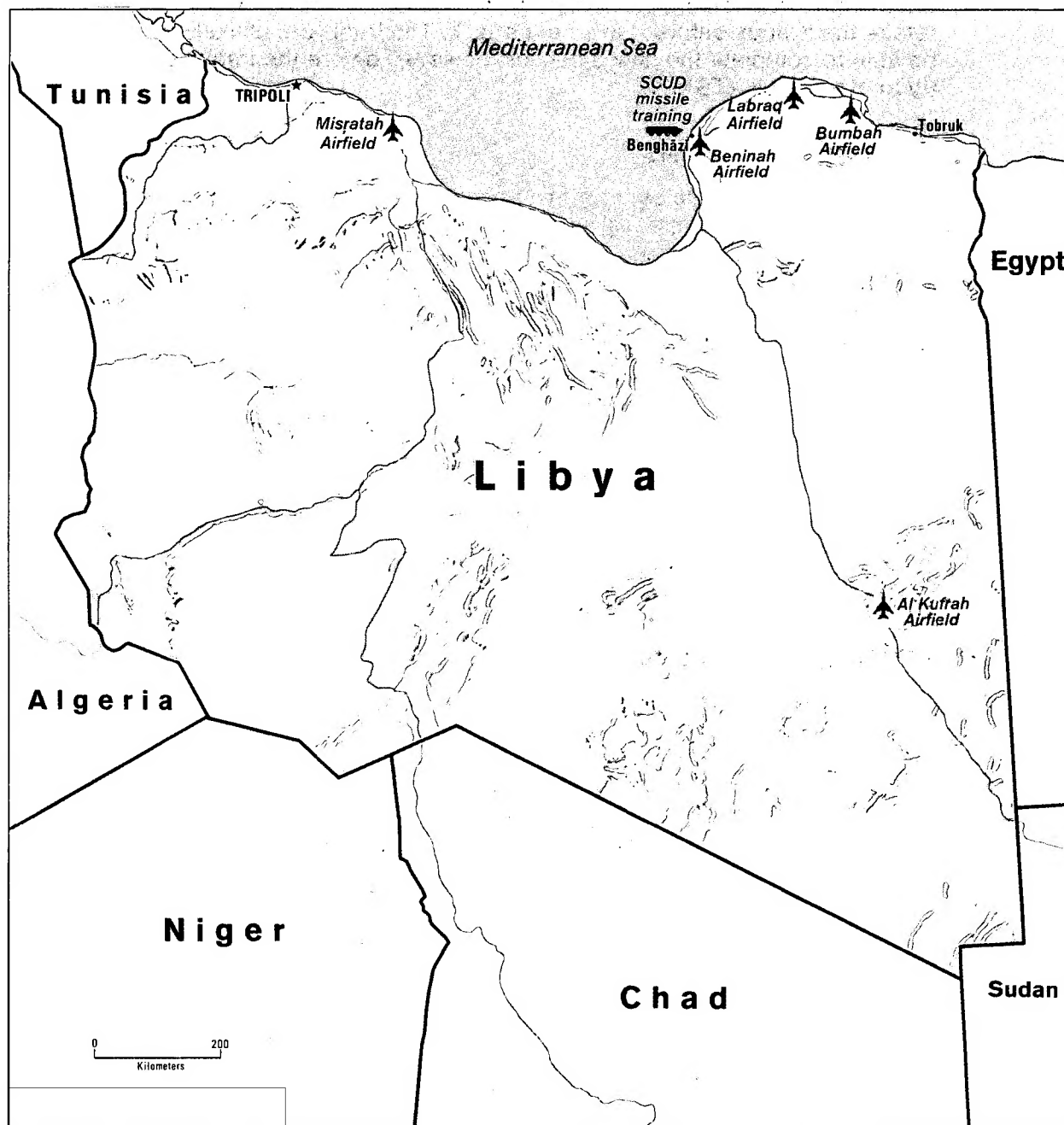
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LIBYA: Preparations for Military Parade

Military activity in Tobruk appears to be related to the annual military parade today rather than to preparations for a "Unity March" on Egypt. [redacted]

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[redacted]
[redacted], where a tank battalion has been taken out of storage. A flag-draped ship in the city's harbor appeared to be unloading people onto buses. [redacted]

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Libyan forces, however, do not appear to be on alert or mobilizing for offensive action against Egypt or Sudan. [redacted]

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[redacted] aircraft remain dispersed in the east and that some have just been dispersed at the airfield at Misratah in the west. There is some Scud missile training at Benghazi. [redacted]

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Comment: Today is the anniversary of the British evacuation from Libya. A military parade is traditionally held, and Libyan leader Qadhafi often makes major policy speeches. Tanks and other armored vehicles normally are assembled from several installations, and there is usually an aerial demonstration by combat aircraft. [redacted]

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The current preparations are consistent with those observed in previous years. There is a chance, however, that they also are designed to mask the "Unity March" toward the Egyptian border originally scheduled for today. [redacted]

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The dispersal of aircraft at Misratah, along with other defensive measures in the south and east, indicates the Libyans fear an attack by the US as much as one by Egypt. The missile training probably is part of the annual training cycle for the Army, which normally begins about this time. [redacted]

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In his speech, Qadhafi is likely to attack the US for "provocations" in the area to support his assertions that Libya was not responsible for the bombing of Khartoum. He will claim that Sudanese dissidents were behind the attack, and he will urge them to intensify their activities against President Nimeiri's regime. [redacted]
[redacted]

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EL SALVADOR: Election Results

With 90 percent of the votes counted, Christian Democrat Duarte maintains a substantial lead over ultrarightist D'Aubuisson.

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Duarte has 45 percent of the vote, while D'Aubuisson has 29 percent, according to the US Embassy. Conciliationist candidate Guerrero remains in third place with 19 percent.

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The Embassy reports the number of valid votes is likely to come close to the 1.3 million cast in the election in 1982. It estimates that the insurgents stopped only about 2 percent of the vote from being cast. A press report claims, however, that as much as 20 percent of the electorate may have been prevented from voting because of problems with the new electoral system.

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International reaction has been generally balanced. Most foreign reporters have commented favorably on the massive turnout but are critical of the widespread procedural disorder. There have been few charges of fraud, and so far no parties in the election have challenged the results.

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Comment: Duarte is in a strong position to bargain for support from Guerrero and others in a runoff against D'Aubuisson. He will be aided by the large turnout and the positive foreign reactions to the election. The armed forces were largely neutral in the campaign, and they probably will remain so during the second round.

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USSR: Chernenko's Health

General Secretary Chernenko has maintained an active schedule since he assumed office last month, but reports of health problems persist. [redacted]

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The 72-year-old Chernenko has appeared in public on several occasions, meeting political leaders from Yugoslavia, West Germany, and East Germany. He also has attended two conferences of Soviet party officials in Moscow. Ethiopian leader Mengistu expects to meet Chernenko later this month, and the Soviet leader reportedly has agreed to visit several East European capitals this spring. [redacted]

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To counter the widespread perception that he is a feeble and transitional leader, Chernenko probably hopes to maintain an active public schedule. His age and health, however, are likely to require periods of public inactivity or vacations of several weeks or more. [redacted]

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UK-PERSIAN GULF: Contingency Planning

British officials in London and Oman say the Ministry of Defense has decided to station a Royal Navy minesweeping force in the Mediterranean to be closer to the Persian Gulf if it is needed there.

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The US defense attache in London also reports that four minesweepers and a support ship are being sent to the Mediterranean. The ships are equipped for mine hunting and sweeping. The movement is being treated as a routine training exercise to begin this week but with no terminal date set and no publicity.

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Planners in the Royal Navy say that having the ships in the Mediterranean will reduce their transit time through the Suez Canal to the Strait of Hormuz to between 17 and 24 days. British officials say that contingency planning to deal with the possible mining of the Strait and other threats is the subject of intense activity in the Ministry of Defense.

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The US Embassy in Muscat was told last month by the British Ambassador that Oman had requested a British commitment to send a minesweeping force, if necessary. London reportedly replied that, if it concludes that such a force is required, it could be in the area in 32 to 42 days.

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The UK has also indicated that Oman might be expected to pay for the operation in the Strait. British officials, however, say that, since the decision to move the force to the Mediterranean was made unilaterally, the Omanis would not be expected to pay at this time.

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British naval forces in the Indian Ocean are at a normal peacetime level of four warships and support units. Two frigates are scheduled to arrive this week to relieve the ships currently in the area.

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Comment: The UK remains concerned that Western forces not take sudden action in the Gulf. It will want continued close political consultations with the US, especially on contingency planning. If Iran were to try to close the Gulf, London would look to Washington to take the lead in any military response. Since late last year, the French have been preparing contingency plans for the deployment of a similar minesweeping force.

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KUWAIT: Bombing Suspects Sentenced

Kuwait is concerned about reprisals by Iran, following the sentencing yesterday of those convicted in the bombing of the US Embassy and other targets last December. [REDACTED]

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Press reports state that six of the 25 men tried were sentenced to death and seven to life imprisonment. Three of those sentenced to death are still at large. Five men were acquitted and the others received sentences ranging from five to 15 years. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Kuwait, however, has been careful not to implicate Iran or the Dawa Party publicly in the bombings. [REDACTED]

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Comment: Iran may intensify subversive and terrorist activities against Kuwait in reprisal for the death sentences. Tehran has threatened to assassinate 10 members of the ruling Sabah family for every execution. The Amir will review the death sentences before they are carried out. [REDACTED]

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Kuwaiti authorities fear that executions would create martyrs for the increasingly restless Shia community in Kuwait. They also are nervous about imprisoning Dawa Party members, however, because of concern about more kidnappings. [REDACTED]

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COLOMBIA: Successful Antinarcotics Operation

The recent destruction of a major cocaine processing facility by the National Police in the southeastern Department of Caqueta reflects their increased willingness to challenge directly the country's powerful drug traffickers. []

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Members of the Special Antinarcotics Police seized more than 8.5 metric tons of cocaine, 1.5 metric tons of cocaine base, six aircraft, and one helicopter, according to the US Drug Enforcement Administration. They arrested more than 40 people in the operation, which was conducted from 10 to 16 March. In addition, 44 buildings and six airstrips were discovered within a 30-kilometer radius of the main cocaine processing facility located along the Rio Taurare. []

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Comment: This is the largest cocaine processing facility ever discovered, and it underscores the impunity with which drug traffickers operate in Colombia. The absence of any coca fields nearby suggests the facility was used to process Peruvian and Bolivian coca. Colombian police speculate that the facility had been in operation for at least two years. []

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Caqueta Department is a traditional insurgent stronghold. This is the first time that the police have been willing to risk a potential clash with guerrillas operating in the area to carry out a drug raid. []

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Any real change in Colombia's antinarcotics policy, however, depends on President Betancur's action on several key issues. These include agreeing to implement a herbicide eradication campaign, ratifying the treaty with the US designed to facilitate the seizure of financial assets of drug traffickers, and enforcing the US-Colombian Extradition Treaty. []

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ANGOLA: Insurgent Attack

UNITA announced yesterday that a 5,000-man force captured Sumbe, a provincial capital on the coast. The insurgents say they killed several hundred government troops and about 100 foreign nationals, including Cubans, Soviets, Bulgarians, and Italians. They also claim to have captured several other foreign workers. Luanda acknowledges the attack but asserts that government forces repelled the insurgents. []

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Comment: The attack on Sumbe probably took government forces by surprise because recent fighting has been around the eastern town of Luao and in the north-central areas of the country. The major attack on the provincial capital—the first such operation by UNITA—probably was planned to mark the anniversary last Friday of the founding of UNITA and to help persuade the government to negotiate. Although UNITA's claims of government casualties inflicted may be exaggerated, even the temporary loss of Sumbe would harden the government's demand that South Africa cease all aid to UNITA before Cuba withdraws its troops from Angola. []

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CHINA-PAKISTAN: Delivery of Missile Boats

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[]
The new boats carry four CSSN-1 surface-to-surface guided-missile launchers, two more than are on the four smaller Hoku-class missile boats that China gave Pakistan in 1981. []

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Comment: Pakistan has secured the missile boats to help meet the increased threat posed by India's large purchases of warships from the USSR since 1980. Together with the recent acquisition of more French Exocet and US Harpoon missiles, they will substantially improve the antishipping capabilities of Pakistan's small Navy. []

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SURINAME-FRENCH GUIANA: Exiles Thwarted

Army Commander Bouterse probably will use the arrest of Surinamese exiles in French Guiana as proof of his frequent charges that opponents are preparing an invasion. French authorities arrested 16 armed men at a camp near Cayenne on Saturday and expelled them to Curacao, in the Netherlands Antilles, according to the US Consulate in Martinique. The men reportedly have ties to the Council for the Liberation of Suriname, a group of Surinamese exiles based in the Netherlands.

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Comment: The arrests deal a serious blow to the exiles' plans and are likely to have ended any prospects in the near term for insurgent operations against the Bouterse regime. The small and poorly armed group probably was not a major threat to Bouterse, but its existence—which was well known in Paramaribo—gave credence to his invasion warnings. It also provided him with an excuse to maintain a curfew and other repressive measures. The arrests, however, are likely to ease Bouterse's concerns and to help Prime Minister Udenhout's efforts to carry out limited democratic reforms.

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USSR: Industrial Performance

Soviet industrial growth in January and February was at an average annual rate of about 5.5 percent, about the same as during the same period last year. Most sectors did well, but production of oil and related products was lower, primarily because of a drop in output in the West Siberian oilfields. In addition, the growth rate in ferrous metals production was only half that achieved in the comparable period in 1983. [REDACTED]

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Comment: After adjustment for additional working days compared with the first two months of 1983—an extra working day in January and 29 February—industrial growth so far this year actually may be between 4 and 4.5 percent. Although it is too early to forecast industrial growth for all of 1984, the results so far suggest that continuation of the moderate annual growth—about 3.5 percent—achieved last year may be possible. On the other hand, difficulties in the ferrous metals branch could hold back growth in construction and machinery production. [REDACTED]

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